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THE UNMARRIED MOTHER

“Since it is theory, then, which gives to facts their value and significance, it is often very useful even if it is in part untrue; for it throws light on phenomena to which no one had paid attention, it forces us to examine from various angles facts which no one had been studying and impels us to undertake investigations of wider scope, destined to have more fruitful results.”

GUGLIELMO FERRERO,

“*Les Lois Psychologiques
du Symbolisme,*”

PARIS, 1895.

CRIMINAL SCIENCE MONOGRAPH No. 3

Supplement to the Journal of

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL LAW
AND CRIMINOLOGY

THE UNMARRIED MOTHER

A STUDY OF FIVE HUNDRED CASES

BY

PERCY GAMBLE KAMMERER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

WILLIAM HEALY, M.D.



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Co

EDITH N. BURLEIGH

**SUPERINTENDENT OF THE GIRLS' PAROLE BOARD
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS TRAINING SCHOOLS**

EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

THE rapid development of criminological research in this country since the organization of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, has made a place in America for this series of Criminal Science Monographs. Their publication is authorized by the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. They appear as supplements to the Journal of the Institute. We believe the present number will satisfy a real need in America.

ROBERT H. GAULT, *Editor of
the Journal of Criminal Law and
Criminology.*

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WILLIAM HEALY,
Judge Baker Foundation, Boston.

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PUBLICATIONS OF
THE AMERICAN IN-
STITUTE OF CRIM-
INAL LAW AND
CRIMINOLOGY.

PREFACE

AFTER every period of fruitful effort there comes the moment for thanksgiving. The harvest is gathered and now stands ready for specific use. Blind indeed is that laborer who does not know that he has added but little to the world's life-giving goods, and yet is not grateful to all who have helped him in his task. There lie under my hand to-day cold abstracts of many lives which stress and passion have led to mistaken ends, in which the reader may more readily perceive the element of tragedy than the note of hope. Should the following pages, however, do anything to better the condition of the unmarried mother and her child, it will be due to the help which these unfortunate women have here procured for others of their sex.

The most casual reader will recognize my indebtedness to Doctor Healy, without whom this material concerning the unmarried mother could never have been presented in its present form. His inspiration and guidance, particularly in regard to the chapter on "Mental Abnormality", has been a constant help. Most stimulating in their coöperation have been Miss Edith N. Burleigh, Superintendent of the Girls' Parole Board of the Massachusetts Training Schools, and Mrs. Jessie D. Hodder of the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women at Sherborn. My thanks are also due to Doctor C. C. Carstens, General Secretary of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, to Mr. J. Prentiss Murphy, of the Children's Aid Society of Boston, to Mrs. Ada E. Sheffield, formerly President of the Boston Conference on Illegitimacy, and to many others whose counsel and assistance has been invaluable.

Particularly should my gratitude to Mrs. Bess L. Russell, formerly of the Massachusetts General Hospital, find expression here. For seven months she was my constant assistant in the preparation of this material and her sympathetic understanding of the unmarried mother has vitalized the following pages.

PERCY G. KAMMERER.

ST. STEPHEN'S HOUSE, BOSTON.

JUNE 15, 1917.

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